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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Siam

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SUBJECT Views on Soviet Russia Expressed by  
Pridi Banomyong in 1946  
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SOURCE Article in Siam Daily, 4 May 1946.

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In discussing the recent inquiry received from the Russian Government concerning the exchange of diplomatic representatives with Siam, Pridi stated that this was the outcome and resumption of the demarche made by Pibul's government with the USSR before the outbreak of the war. He went on to explain:

"Politics and diplomacy are two entirely different things. Whether we agree with another country's political beliefs has nothing to do with our diplomatic relations. I wish to insist that Siam can never be a Communist country because our customs, conventions and history differ greatly from that of Russia. Before the Soviet Revolution, the peasants and the poorer classes in Europe were the tools of the landowners and capitalists. The hardships which these poor people had to suffer gave rise to Communism. I have studied enough economics to be in a position to say that Communism can never happen in this country and that we have nothing to fear about that. I wish to make this point quite clear, because I was once branded a 'Communist'."

Field Comment. In light of developments in Siam and of international developments since the end of World War II, and because of the paucity of authentic writings and speeches by Pridi Banomyong on the subject of Soviet Russia and Communism in recent years, it is felt that this report of an interview given by Pridi in May 1946 may be of interest.

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